



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
6 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

[redacted]
the police seem to be operating effectively despite the loss of top personnel on Sunday.

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Major Nguyen Mau, the new Saigon police chief, is a capable officer. He still has to prove himself to his men, but he is moving vigorously and he is giving close personal direction in the field, particularly in Cholon.

Police morale is good [redacted]
[redacted]

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2. France

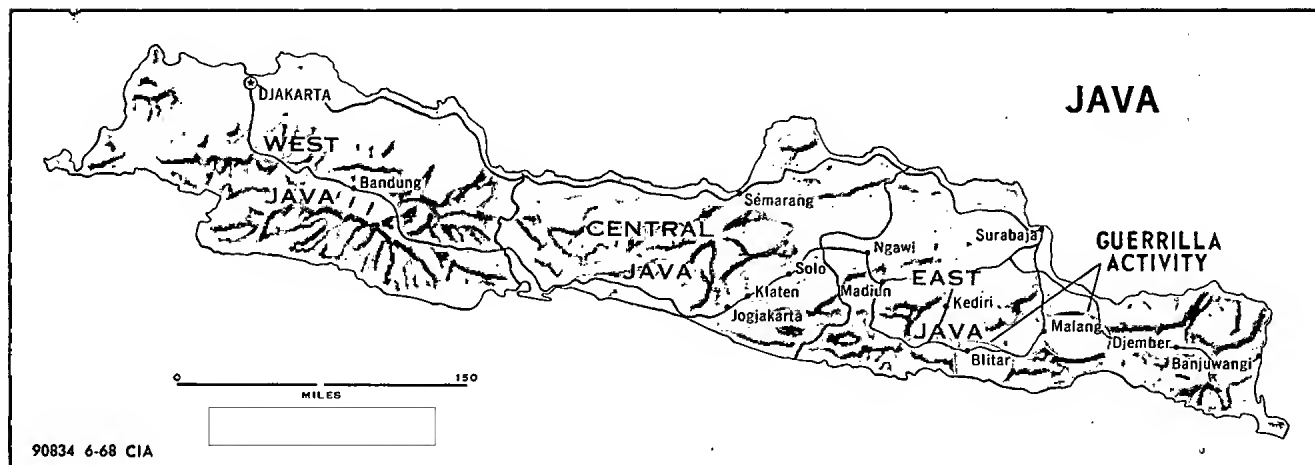
Postal and transport workers are expected to return to work today, but other key sectors of industry and commerce remain strikebound.

Looking forward to the elections, the French Communists expect to outpoll the Federation of the Left and become the undisputed leaders of France's left-wing opposition. The Communists, however, face dissension in their party and privately concede that it probably will be De Gaulle who emerges with the final victory.

3. Iran -
Saudi Arabia

The Shah and Faysal met briefly in Jidda on Monday. The meeting was cordial. Each ruler presented his case on territorial disputes and the median line question--who gets what oil in the Persian Gulf. Although no solid agreements were reached, this meeting may help stabilize Gulf problems until the two men meet again later this year.

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4. Indonesia

Communist guerrilla activity in East Java is of growing concern to Suharto.

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East Java is a traditional Communist redoubt. The people are poor, the government unpopular, and the rugged, jungle-clad hills ideal for guerrillas. [redacted] guerrillas [redacted] are beginning to make their presence felt, raiding small outposts and assassinating village officials.

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5. West Germany - Soviet Union

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6. South Korea

Pak's ability to control factionalism within his own party will be tested in the months ahead. Last week Kim Chong-pil [] suddenly resigned as the party's chairman. Kim [] thinks Pak intends to run for a third term in 1971 and Kim wants to run himself. Kim has a substantial following in the party and could be a problem unless Pak finds a face-saving path to reconciliation.

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7. Yugoslavia

The student unrest which began earlier this week in Belgrade is spreading to other cities. It also is developing antiregime overtones. Tuesday night demonstrations broke out in Sarajevo.

Defiant students still hold some university buildings in Belgrade; there are demands that government officials be dismissed. One student was seen carrying a placard with the slogan, "Down with the Red Bourgeoisie!" (presumably well-off Communist bureaucrats).

The government is moving cautiously now, but is likely to start cracking heads if things keep going downhill.

8. Arab States -
Israel

King Husayn told Ambassador Symmes yesterday that the Soviet ambassador to Jordan had warned of Israeli plans to occupy Jordanian territory. The Soviet ambassador claimed his information came from "good sources." Similar Soviet "warnings" to the Arabs last year helped to precipitate the events that culminated in the June war. Such warnings also play on fears already high in Jordan.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

6 June 1968

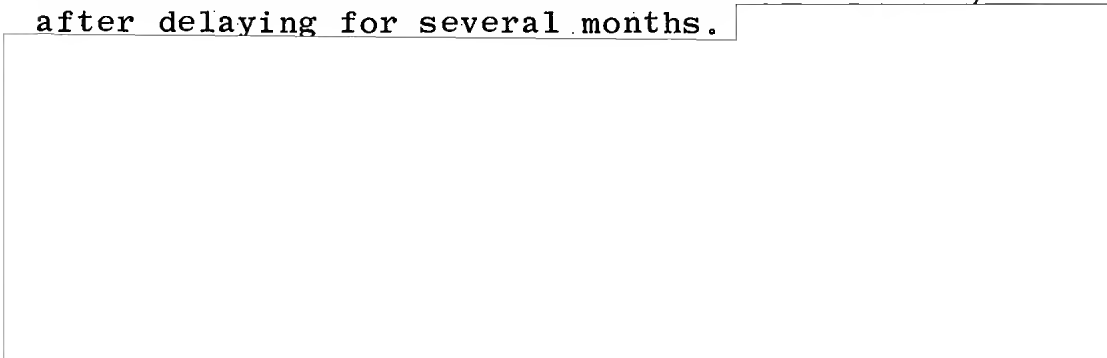
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Liberation Front to Open Paris Office: The Communists are finally moving ahead on the establishment of a Liberation Front office in Paris, after delaying for several months.



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The relatively low level of these individuals suggests that they are working personnel coming to open the office and serve as the press staff. It is

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] One

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excuse the Communists have used all these months
for not opening the office is that they have not
decided who should head it.

[REDACTED]

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* * *

[REDACTED]

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Comment on Kennedy Shooting: Hanoi radio was quick to react to the shooting of Senator Kennedy. In a broadcast yesterday morning over its domestic service in Vietnamese, it gave some of the details of the assassination attempt and of Senator Kennedy's background, at one point calling him "the most redoubtable political opponent of Johnson in the Democratic Party." The broadcast concluded with the comment that the attack "again clearly shows the hideous, true face of US society, full of crimes and injustice. In the race for position and interests, the ruling cliques, representing the various factions of the US monopoly capitalist class, have not hesitated to resort to bloodshed and fire to liquidate one another."

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